



ENQUIRER | POST | WCPO | CIN WEEKLY | Classifieds | Cars | Homes | Jobs | Customer Service

# THE ENQUIRER

ONLINE EDITION OF THE  
REGION'S #1 NEWSPAPER

don't gossip.

careerbuilder.com

HOME NEWS ENTERTAINMENT SPORTS REDS BENGALS LOCAL GUIDE MULTIMEDIA ARCHIVE

## TODAY'S ENQUIRER

Front Page  
Local News  
Sports  
Business  
Editorials  
Tempo  
Travel  
Health  
Technology  
Weather  
Back Issues  
Search  
Subscribe

SPORTS  
Bearcats  
Bengals  
High School  
Reds  
Xavier

VIEWPOINTS  
Jim Borgman  
Columnists  
Readers' views

ENTERTAINMENT  
Movies  
Dining  
Horoscopes  
Lottery Results  
Local Events  
Video Games

CINCINNATI.COM  
Giveaways  
Maps/Directions  
Send an E-Postcard  
Coupons  
Visitor's Guide

CLASSIFIEDS  
Jobs  
Cars  
Homes  
Obituaries  
General  
Place an ad

HELP  
Feedback  
Subscribe

Saturday, June 29, 2002

## Forensic expert hired to review Owensby case

By Gregory Korte, [gkorte@enquirer.com](mailto:gkorte@enquirer.com)  
and Jane Prendergast, [jprendergast@enquirer.com](mailto:jprendergast@enquirer.com)  
The Cincinnati Enquirer

The city of Cincinnati has hired a national forensic expert — renowned for his research into high-profile deaths — to review what killed Roger Owensby Jr.

A soon-to-be-released report by Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, coroner in Allegheny County, Pa., could help the city's Office of Municipal Investigation resolve competing theories on Mr. Owensby's cause of death after he was arrested in Roselawn in November 2000.

The city wants to know whether Cincinnati police officers involved in the arrest "committed any administrative or procedural violations," said OMI Director Mark Gissiner, who has described the Owensby case as the most complicated his office has ever handled.

"Given the difficult circumstances in this case, we wanted a second opinion from a doctor who is well respected nationally," Mr. Gissiner said. "It's not unlike someone facing major surgery who wants a second opinion."

Dr. Wecht's inquiry could further complicate a case that continues to unravel with new revelations that have increased the political pressure on Hamilton County Prosecutor Michael Allen to reopen the criminal case.

Mr. Owensby, 29, died at a Roselawn gas station after officers struggled to arrest him, sprayed him with chemical irritant, brought him to the ground, handcuffed him and put him in the back of a cruiser.

Hamilton County Coroner Dr. Carl Parrott labeled his death "mechanical asphyxiation" and said officers likely either piled on him or used a choke hold.

A lawyer for Officer Robert "Blaine" Jorg disputes that, saying in a \$30 million federal lawsuit filed last month that his

## EXHIBIT B

Latest

Updated E

### AP TOP HEADLINE NEWS

- [Supreme Court Upholds Money Law](#)
- [Iraq Establishes War Tribunal](#)
- [Iranian Activist Accused](#)
- [Six Afghan Children Killed in Attack](#)
- [White House Defends Iraq](#)
- [Family Hopes Missing Alive](#)
- [Memo: No Basis for J Allegations](#)
- [Indian Teachers Ban Knitting](#)
- [Dow Rises 21, Nasdaq](#)
- [Falcons Abruptly Fire Reeves](#)

**Search  
Survey**

client was made a "scapegoat" in a racially charged case. He intends to prove that Mr. Owensby's death came not from asphyxiation, but from an unrelated "cardiac event."

Officer Jorg, who has since resigned and now works in Clermont County's Pierce Township, is white; Mr. Owensby was black.

Officer Jorg and a co-defendant, Patrick Caton, were indicted in the death and tried. Both were found not guilty of assault, but the jury was hung on Officer Jorg's charge of involuntary manslaughter. Mr. Allen has thus far elected not to retry Officer Jorg.

Most recently, Chief Tom Streicher put Officer Victor Spellman on desk duty, saying he admitted lying about what Officer Jorg — his training officer — told him about the head lock he had on Mr. Owensby.

Dr. Wecht will review autopsy records, tissue samples, court transcripts and officers' statements, Mr. Gissiner said.

The Pittsburgh coroner's expertise has been used in cases including the Branch Davidian fire in Waco and the suicide of Vincent Foster, the deputy White House counsel who killed himself in the wake of the Clinton Whitewater and travel office scandals. He also wrote a book about the disappearance of JonBenet Ramsey.

Two lawsuits, two internal investigations by the Cincinnati Police Department and OMI's review are also pending in the case.

The Owensby family has filed a federal wrongful death lawsuit, hoping to get the justice they say they were denied in the county court system.

An internal investigation was supposed to be completed in April. Police officials say it will be released soon, but will not discuss the issue until then.

Dr. Wecht's fee in similar cases is about \$5,000. He has not yet billed the city.

---

► Forensic expert hired to review Owensby case  
[Pact with nurses averts a walkout](#)  
[County may seize company buildings](#)  
[City orders house demolished](#)  
[Family frustrated by lawyer's silence](#)  
[Food stars at Panegyri fest](#)  
[Jury agrees shooting was self defense](#)  
[Obituary: J. Louis Warm was longtime attorney](#)  
[Stricter rules on old homes mulled](#)  
[Tristate A.M. Report](#)

[Trustee to leave job with youth sports](#)  
[Whistleblower signs disputed](#)  
[RADEL: Renewal](#)  
[SAMPLES: Scandal](#)  
[Coalition on Aging turns 10](#)  
[Freedom festival a fun celebration](#)  
[Gas plant worker's death probed](#)  
[New dispatching faster, smarter](#)  
[Spokes-man is year-round work](#)  
[Audit names child-support problems](#)  
[Columbus Zoo funds help to shore up game preserve](#)  
[Democratic leader had wins, but not in statewide offices](#)  
[Group cleaning up its political ads](#)  
[Wanted: Suspected Mideast terrorists](#)  
[Kentucky News Briefs](#)  
[Corinth small enough to slip through loophole](#)  
[911 dispatch consolidated](#)  
[Effort to clear top admiral at Pearl Harbor rejected](#)  
[Ky. empties fund to plug budget hole](#)  
[Roads go up creeks](#)



Enquirer • Post • WCPO • Cin Weekly

[CINCINNATI.COM](#) | [ENQUIRER](#) | [POST](#) | [WCPO](#) | [CIN WEEKLY](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Cars](#) | [Homes](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Custo](#)

Search our site by keyword:



Search also: [News](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Homes](#) | [Cars](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Obits](#) | [Coupons](#) | [Events](#) | [Dining](#)  
[Movies/DVDs](#) | [Video Games](#) | [Hotels](#) | [Golf](#) | [Visitor's Guide](#) | [Maps/Directions](#) | [Yellow P](#)

[Search](#) | [Questions/help](#) | [News tips](#) | [Letters to the editors](#) | [Subscribe](#)  
[Newspaper advertising](#) | [Web advertising](#) | [Place a classified](#) | [Circulation](#)

Copyright 1995-2003. The Cincinnati Enquirer, a Gannett Co. Inc. newspaper.  
Use of this site signifies agreement to [terms of service](#) updated 12/19/2002.